



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



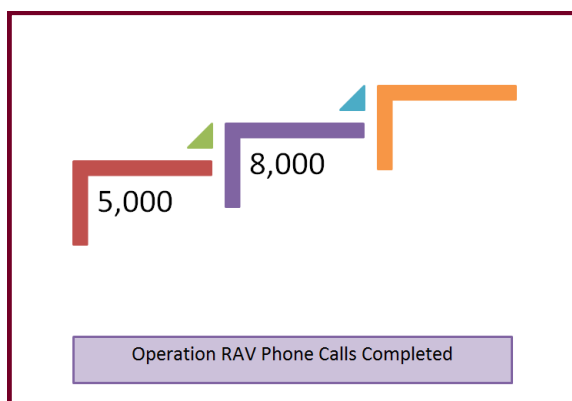
# OPERATION RAV

Via Operation RAV we are continuing to reach veterans. This week open houses were held in Hayes, Blunt, Milbank, Wilmot Huron, Eureka, Center-ville, and Leola.

At the close of April County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers and SDDVA staff had made over 8,000 calls to South Dakota's veterans. We are making a difference one month at a time!!!!

Nine counties have completed their call lists and are moving on to assist other counties with their calls!!!!

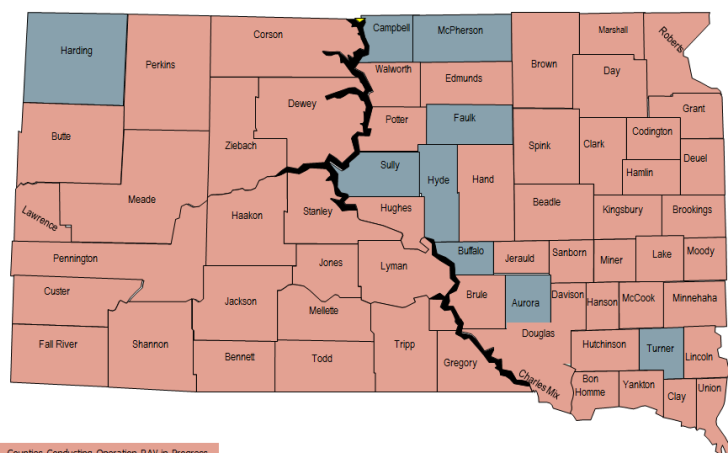
Turner County VSO Tom Sparrow and Union County VSO Dan Veatch have each completed over 600 contacts!!!!!!



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Charting Operation RAV by County



Heroes Among Us—  
showcasing 125 South Dakota veterans.



## VABHHCS TO HOST BROWN BAG LUNCH EDUCATIONAL SERIES

The VA Black Hills Health Care System invites veterans and the public to attend the next program in a “Brown Bag” lunch educational series.

This month VABHHCS has the privilege to welcome Julieann Morse, a military photojournalist, recently back from a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan.

Morse was born and raised in South Dakota. She joined the military while still in high school. She deployed to Afghanistan in 2013 as a military photojournalist with the 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and documented the lives of soldiers as well as her own experiences through self-portraits.

Morse is currently a senior at Black Hills State University majoring in photography and is set to graduate this December. She is in her 10th year with the South Dakota Army National Guard and will be attending Officer Candidate School this summer at Fort Meade.

Morse will share and discuss her photographs in a program entitled “In Difficult Places” on May 22nd at 1:00 pm at the Ft. Meade Medical Center Campus, Building 145, Room 108.

The program will be broadcast to the Hot Springs Campus, Building 1, Room 212; the Rapid City Outpatient Clinic, 3625 5th Street, Room 205; and the Pierre Clinic, 1601 North Harrison, Suite 6. Veterans are invited to take part in wellness education and blood pressure screenings from 12:30pm – 1:00pm at the Ft. Meade, Hot Springs, and Rapid City locations.



## SDDVA SECRETARY ZIMMERMAN SPEAKS AT FLAG CEREMONY

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman was the keynote speaker today at that National Military Appreciation Month Flag Ceremony at St. Thomas More Middle School Gym in Rapid City.

The American Legion Riders Posts 22, 71 and 164 escorted the dignitaries from American Legion Post 22 to the school for the ceremony.

These same heroes held the flag as presentations were made by Secretary Zimmerman and Autumn Simunek (Miss Siouxland).

National Military Appreciation month affords all of us a great opportunity to honor all of our military men and women and their families, as well as educate our youth.





## HEROES AMONG US

This week's "Heroes Among Us" spotlight shines on the Vietnam Era Veterans Association and their volunteers. Last weekend, these veterans gathered in Pierre to clean the veterans memorials.

They cleaned the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Memorials, as well as the EMT, Law Enforcement and Firefighters Memorials.

In addition they scrubbed the flaming fountain and the steps the lead to and from the fountain.

This great group of dedicated veterans also cleaned the Purple Heart Memorial and the Liberty Bell that are located on the front lawn of the Soldiers and Sailors Building.



The group ended their day with a wreath placing ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial honoring their fallen soldiers.

Hats off and kudos to the numerous veterans and volunteers that took part in this great project and thank you for your service to this great country!!!!!!



## VABHHCS ANNOUNCES CONTRACTOR SELECTION IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROCESS

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced this week, the award of the contract for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement to Labat Environmental, Inc., regarding VABHHCS' proposal to reconfigure the services of VABHHCS and the Hot Springs VA campus. A Notice of Intent (NOI) will be published soon in the Federal Register signaling the formal start of the EIS process.

Labat Environmental will be responsible for all aspects of the EIS process to include integrating National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation. Preparation of the EIS will involve initial scoping, reinitiating consultation with interested parties, and incorporating public and governmental agency input throughout the process. It includes an analysis of potential environmental, cultural and historic, and socioeconomic effects of the VABHHCS reconfiguration proposal and reasonable alternatives. The process will support robust public participation through meeting attendance and submitting comments. Throughout the 10 to 18 month long process, Veterans, their families, and community members can use the VA BHHCS website [www.blackhills.va.gov](http://www.blackhills.va.gov) as a resource for additional information on comment periods and public meetings.

## NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDER TO VISIT SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota is fortunate to have American Legion National Commander Daniel Dellinger visiting the state. Dellinger will be visiting the Black Hills area May 18-20.

American Legion Riders will escort the Commander to most of his destinations.

During his visit, the Commander will tour the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home and the VA facilities in Hot Springs. He is scheduled to meet with SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman on the 19th and will be briefed on veterans issues in South Dakota.

Hats off to Commander Dellinger for taking the time to visit South Dakota.





## GIRL SCOUTS HONOR SOLDIERS WITH WOMEN OF SERVICE AWARDS

Girl Scouts-Dakota Horizons honored a select group of women in recognition of their community leadership at their 20th annual Women of Distinction awards luncheon, Wednesday, May 14, at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn. This year, 13 Women of Distinction Awards were presented to recipients who inspire girls to lead. One of the awards, The Distinctive Woman of Service Award, was presented to three South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers.

The Distinctive Woman of Service Award, which recognizes a member or employee of the U.S. Armed Forces who strives to make the world a better place and has made a contribution of time and support to the community, was presented to Lt. Col. Renel Hall-Beck, of Sturgis, State Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe, of Rapid City, and Master Sgt. Mary Beth Mallow, of Black Hawk.

Mallow, who serves as the SDARNG's resilience program and funeral honors coordinator, said community service was instilled in her at a young age by her family.

In addition to her National Guard duties, Mallow served as a member of Lawrence County Search and Rescue, Timberline Road Homeowners Association and Sanitary Road District and a church group to assist with funeral meals.



Master Sgt. Mary Beth Mallow



State Command Sgt. Maj.

Shoe, the SDARNG's state command sergeant major, said it takes many people with different ideas and backgrounds to have a successful community.

Shoe said she is looking forward to committing more of her time to community service and the Girl Scouts in particular this fall.

Hall-Beck, who serves as the SDARNG's contract management branch chief, was the first and only female manager of the Belle Fourche Irrigation District in its 100 year history. She was instrumental in starting Women of the Guard, a women's mentoring and networking group, and she has been an active participant in the Sturgis Zonta Women's History Month Board.



Lt. Col. Renel Hall-Beck

Mallow told the audience, ranging from business professionals to young Girl Scouts, that while her experience with Girl Scouts is limited, the benefits of the organization will serve the girls for the rest of their lives.

## SD GUARD MEMBERS EMPOWER FEMALES AT MULTINATIONAL LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

Members of the South Dakota National Guard participated in a multinational leadership symposium this week for women serving in the armed forces in the South American capital city of Paramaribo, Suriname.

The three-day event, May 12-14, was filled with guest speakers, instructional workshops and activities designed to help share knowledge and build friendships among 250 women from the Republic of Suriname, Curacao and the United States. The symposium, hosted by Suriname, was conducted as a part of the State Partnership Program with the SDNG.

Speakers at the event included doctors, educa-



tors and military leaders to include the SDNG's Lt. Col. Renel Hall-Beck, of Sturgis, who spoke to empower women who are striving to be the best leaders in their organization. Hall-Beck told the women a leader is someone with a goal who works hard to achieve that goal and someone who is prepared, professional and confident. Her speech resonated with Wendy, a sergeant from the Suriname Police Corps.

In addition to Hall-Beck's speech, she and S.D. Air National Guard Lt. Col. Mary Rysavy, of Sioux Falls, commander of the 114th Fighter Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron, served as board members dur-



ing a mentor interview break-out session. A group of four to five women had two minutes to ask a question related to leadership; from time management to goal setting, before rotating to the next mentor.





## CABELA'S HOMETOWN HEROES

Cabela's stores nationwide will honor the contributions of those who serve our country and communities by offering employee pricing to all veterans, active duty military and reserves, law enforcement, firefighters, and EMS personnel beginning Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>. The *Hometown Heroes* event recognizes the service and sacrifice of those who protect and serve every day.

"Cabela's values the contributions of our nation's military and service personnel," said Cabela's Chief Executive Officer Tommy Millner. "Making them honorary employees, and extending our employee discount to them as we prepare to celebrate Armed Forces Appreciation Day, is our way of saying thank you for keeping us safe."

To participate in the *Hometown Heroes* event, veterans, active duty military, reserves, law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel should present their service ID at check out at their local Cabela's store. Upon doing so, they will receive Cabela's employee discount on virtually everything in the store. Firearms and ammunition are included in the sale. Should you be interested in a gun or would like to inquire about a particular firearm

please contact Curt @ 605-996-0337 ext. 8285. Some restrictions apply; see store for complete details.



**HOMETOWN HEROES  
CELEBRATION**  
MAY 15-18 • CABELA'S HONORS YOUR SERVICE

AS OUR WAY OF SAYING THANK YOU, WE ARE OFFERING OUR  
**EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT**  
TO ACTIVE MILITARY, VETERANS, LAW-ENFORCEMENT,  
FIREFIGHTERS AND EMS PERSONNEL.

This offer is valid on Cabela's in-stock retail merchandise only. Not valid on gift certificates, gift cards, boats, ATVs/UTVs, tractors or tractor attachments, licenses or services. This offer has no cash value and is not transferable. Offer cannot be used on prior purchases or in combination with any other rebate, promotion or previous offer. Other restrictions apply, see store for details. Discounts vary. Please present badge, valid government ID or other proof of eligibility to cashier to receive discount. Offer valid in-store May 15-18, 2014 only.

# Upcoming Events

## 2014

Jun 5-8—VFW State Convention—Custer

Jun. 14—SD Marine Corps League State Convention—Pierre Post 8 Legion Cabin—10:30 am

Jun. 19-22—American Legion State Convention—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre

Jul. 7—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am

Aug. 6—DOL Veterans Job Fair—Augustana College Elmen Center—10:00 am—2:00 pm

Aug. 22—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux City, IA

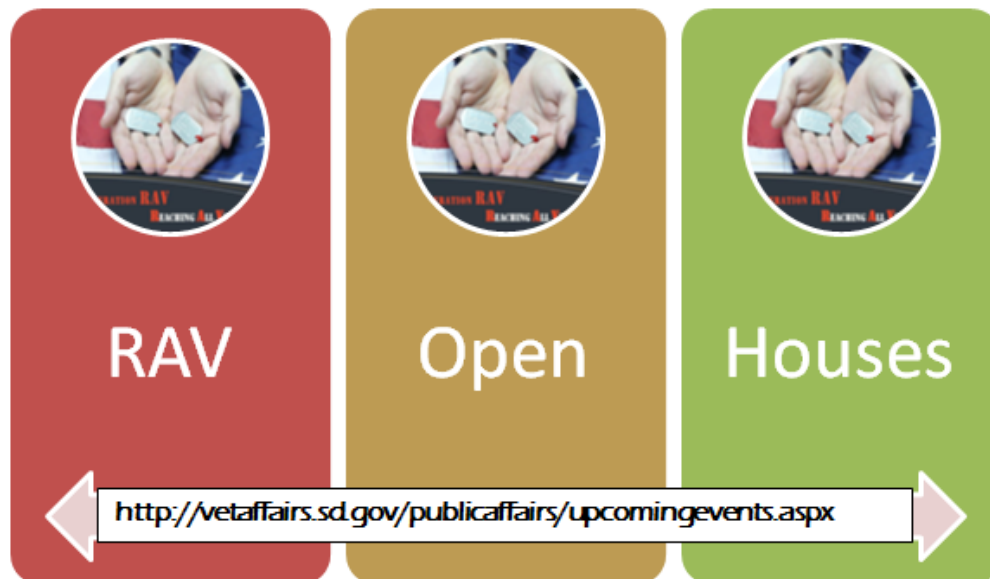
Aug. 25-29—NACVSO Training Ramkota Hotel—Pierre

Sept. 5—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Watertown

Sept. 11—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Wagner

Sept. 19—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux Falls

Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am



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